

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20, and 28 have been amended. Claims 2, 13, 23, and 31 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-20, 22, 24-28, 30, and 32-35 remain pending in the application.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 13, 14, 23 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

While Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections stated in the Final Action, to expedite allowance, Applicants have amended the independent claims to the subject matter of allowable dependent claims, as noted below.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 2. Applicants submit that the amended independent claim 1 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claims 3-7 depend from claim 1 and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate features of allowable claim 5. Applicants submit that the amended independent claim 8 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 8 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claims 9-11 depend from claim 8 and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 12 been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 13. Applicants submit that the amended independent claim 12 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 12 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claims 14-17 depend from claim 12 and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 18 been amended to incorporate features of allowable claim 5. Applicants submit that the amended independent claim 18 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 18 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 20 been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 23. Applicants submit that the amended independent claim 20 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 20 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claims 22 and 24-27 depend from claim 20 and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 28 been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 31. Applicants submit that the amended independent claim 28 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 28 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claims 30 and 32-35 depend from claim 28 and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given above.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-08300/RCK.

Respectfully submitted,

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